

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON RIVERFRONT ACTIVITIES
AND BASEBALL**

April 7, 2006

9:30 AM

Chairman Lopez called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Lopez, Smith and Roy

Absent: Aldermen Gatsas and DeVries

Messrs.: Art Solomon, Steve Singer, Sean Smith, Mayor Guinta, Tom Clark,
Kevin Clougherty

Chairman Lopez stated the purpose of the meeting is to discuss an update regarding baseball and riverfront activities and an announcement on the naming rights. Gentlemen, would you introduce yourselves for the public please.

Mr. Art Solomon stated I am controlling owner of the Fisher Cats.

Mr. Sean Smith stated I am the President/General Manager of the Fisher Cats.

Mr. Solomon stated Aldermen Lopez, Smith and Roy and Mayor Guinta thank you very much for accommodating our schedule today. I have two very important things to tell you about. First of all, Fisher Cats are in first place and we're undefeated and if we ended the season now I think we'd all have a big smile on our faces. The second thing is if you approve we'll have an outstanding company, an outstanding family that we'll name the stadium for. When I acquired control of the Fisher Cats one of my highest priorities, my personal highest priority to find a naming rights partner who met some very important criteria. I'm aware as all of you are that there are really two major sports and entertainment facilities in the entire state and that's the Verizon Center, Fisher Cats ballpark so I thought that I had a special obligation to find a naming rights partner who met some very, very clear criteria. Let me share that with you. I wanted to find a company with a long history and deep roots in Manchester and in the State of New Hampshire...that was very important to me. Secondly, I wanted to find a company that shared the Fisher Cats values and my own personal values especially a genuine commitment to invest in the community in order to make it a better place to live, to work and to

play and finally I wanted to find a company that likes to win...I like to win and to have fun as well and a company that's committed to strengthening our ability to provide affordable family entertainment and to contribute to the continuing economic development of this community. I frankly don't know any other family since I have been here in New Hampshire spending as much time as I have been that is more committed and has continuously demonstrated this commitment by giving back to the community and helping those in need. So, with your approval I would like to rename the stadium the "*Merchants Auto.Com Stadium*"... obviously, we all know historically that this used to be Singer Park. This is the family coming back to a park that they owned where a lot of people have had a lot of fond memories and I'm very, very pleased that we've been able to reach this agreement subject to your approval.

Chairman Lopez stated that you very much...comments from the City Solicitor and the Finance Officer please.

City Solicitor Clark stated the team is following the management agreement we have with them under Article 4.2.1 they have the right to negotiate a naming rights deal...the funds flow through the team and it's subject to the "reasonable approval" of the city..."reasonable approval" generally meaning that you have to have a very good reason to say no.

Mr. Solomon stated I'm sorry I didn't realize that my new partner was sitting to my right here. This is Steve Singer and I'm sure all of you know Steve and certainly know his outfits and his automobiles.

Chairman Lopez asked, Kevin, do you have any comments?

Mr. Kevin Clougherty, Finance Officer, replied as the Solicitor said this is a courtesy more than anything else where the group is coming back to inform you of the group...they still have the responsibilities for payment under the agreements and this certainly is something that should help. We've been waiting to see this so it can only improve I would think although we may not know the details I think it's a good thing and you shouldn't reasonably withhold your approval.

Alderman Smith moved to approve the naming rights as presented by Mr. Solomon to "*Merchant Auto.Com Stadium*". Alderman Roy duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Mr. Solomon stated thank you very, very much.

Chairman Lopez asked are there any comments from committee members? Your Honor, would you care to say something?

Mayor Guinta stated I think the committee made the right decision. I couldn't be more pleased with this announcement. I'm very much looking forward to the formal announcement later this morning. The Singer Family has certainly proven itself not just as a tremendous asset to the business community but a tremendous asset to the community at large in the many ways that they give back to this community and I couldn't think of a better partner and a better fit not just for the stadium but for the location and I thank you both for your dedication not just to the community but to the Fisher Cats...I think this is a tremendous opportunity for the Fisher Cats to continue to prove its commitment to the community and to New Hampshire and I think it's a further commitment of just how much the Singer's care about our community. I couldn't be more pleased.

Alderman Roy stated I would just like to echo the Mayor's comments...Fisher Cats Stadium was built on a great piece of land and it was a great piece of land because of the Singer Family and the fact that you would come, Mr. Solomon, before this committee...this is the most positive Baseball Committee that Sean Smith has ever attended so thank you. I know later this morning you are going to hold a press conference and it means a lot to me that not only you but the Singer Family and your marketing firm came to us first and followed what has been a great strategic partnership between the City and the Fisher Cats and both of your families, so we greatly appreciate it and we'll be there for a lot of games.

Alderman Smith stated I'm very pleased that Steve Singer and his family has been very, very positive to this community. I've worked with youth all of my life and the Singer Family has always been there and Mr. Solomon you have a good partner. Thank you very much.

Chairman Lopez asked Mr. Singer would you like to say anything?

Mr. Steve Singer stated on behalf of all of my siblings and my mother and the entire staff at Merchants Automotive Group I can tell you that we are humbled by your positive response to our partnership with the Fisher Cats. We feel that Art Solomon and Sean Smith and the entire staff at the Fisher Cats mirror what our values are. We want to invest in the community, we want to make Manchester a better place to live, we want to make it a destination city and we feel that with the Fisher Cats, the Singer Family...Merchants Automotive Group we have a winning

team that will continue to bring only glory to the greater Manchester area. I would like to make one comment relative to my dress this morning...even though I have a Disney outfit on this morning I will say that this is not a Mickey Mouse operation.

Chairman Lopez stated I would like to say on behalf of all the members of the committee I know I'm missing two of them but not because they didn't want to be here but one is in a big meeting over at the Police Athletic League and our other member is the State Senate President who is holding conferences up in Concord. It's unusual that we have meetings during the daytime but we wanted to accommodate the owners because it enhances the community tremendously and we're going to see better things to come down there for families and we want to thank you so much. Are there any other comments you may have, Sir?

Mr. Solomon stated I think the only thing I'd say is there's only one downside and Steven is going to have to speak to my wife about it. He told me that I've got to throw out my entire wardrobe...he will come down to my house and he will pick out the kind of outfit I need to wear. At least she thinks it's downside...I think it's actually going to be much better. Thank you all so much. We could not be more pleased. This is exactly the kind of partner that we were seeking. We only spoke to one company, we only spoke to one family and this will be a great partnership for the community for a long time coming. Thank you so much.

Chairman Lopez stated usually I have a tough committee meeting...usually it's a three to two vote but I'm sure it's going to be unanimous.

There being no further business to come before the committee, on motion of Alderman Smith, duly seconded by Alderman Roy, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee